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SENIOR CITIZEN



NEWS



LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

Dedicated to the Educational, Economic and Social Betterment of Older Montanans

Volume I

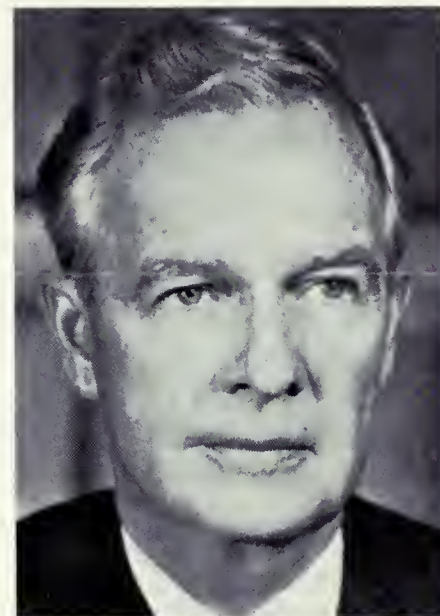
October, 1970

Number 8

Governor Predicts 'Better Times'



James Burrell, Regional Director, Social Rehabilitation Service, HEW.



Gov. Forrest Anderson key-noted the Governors Conference.

Anderson Lauds State Commission For Senior Projects

(Photos on Page 4-5)

Better times for senior citizens were predicted by Governor Forrest H. Anderson when he addressed the second annual Governor's Conference on Aging held September 17-18 at the Florence Hotel in Missoula.

The Governor spoke at the conference annual banquet on September 17, when he was introduced by Barclay Craighead, Chairman of the Montana Commission on Aging. The governor stressed the need for expanded services for the state's 70,000 elderly residents.

"Fifty years ago for elderly persons without family or financial resources it was over the hill to the poorhouse," Governor Anderson said.

'Green Thumb' to Expand

Green Thumb, sponsored by the Montana Farmers Union, expanded in Montana this month with 72 jobs for Senior Citizens. Green Thumb is a U. S. Labor Department program designed to employ older workers with forestry or agricultural backgrounds.

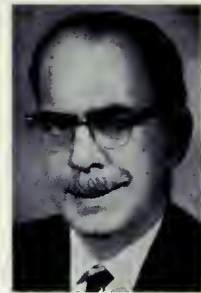
Five counties selected for the initial stages of the Green Thumb beautification projects are Fergus, Cascade, Lewis and Clark, Powell and Silver Bow with Chouteau county as an alternate for the two seven-man crews per county.

please turn to page two

please turn to page six

Director's Report

by Lyle Downing



Reorganization of the Commission on Aging under a new state agency appears imminent, if the voters approve the proposals made by the Montana Commission on Executive Reorganization, which will be voted upon in the November election.

In our discussions with members of the Reorganization Commission, the present functions of the aging commission will be placed under a new department of social rehabilitation services.

If the voters do not approve the reorganization plan, some state officials believe it is doubtful whether it will be carried out in the next fiscal year.

Other agencies whose functions would be grouped with the Commission on Aging are the Board of Public Welfare, the Council on Human Resources, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Veterans Welfare. If the reorganization is approved and the legislation enacted, the reorganization committee has set a target date for July 1, 1971. The overall proposal of the Reorganization Commission is to reduce the number of state agencies to 18.

As explained at the Aging Commission meeting at Missoula on September 17, we are launching a program under which at least 10 "mini-centers" will be funded. The maximum amount of money which will be contributed to these "store-front" centers will be \$1500 each. This money will have to be matched with \$500 furnished by the sponsor for the first year.

We have already established two of these centers at Sidney and Roundup and have applications for several others. "Mini-centers" have been advocated by Chairman Barclay Craighead for a long time. He contends that our services for the elderly are largely confined to urban areas, and that isolated senior citizens in remote sections of the state have no facilities for social, educational, employment and recreational activities. We expect to fund another "mini-center" in Choteau within a few days.

The second annual Governor's Conference was highly successful in that it brought together approximately 500 senior citizens and representatives of private and public agencies interested in problems of the aging. We have received many letters and tele-

phone calls from persons who participated, praising the program and the manner in which the conference was handled.

Governor Anderson told Chairman Craighead that he was greatly pleased with the big turnout for the conference banquet, September 17 in the Florence Hotel.

We regret very much that it was necessary to change the date of the next Commission meeting from December 18. However, Mr. Craighead and the director are required by the Administration on Aging to attend a national conference of state executives in Washington, D.C. during the week of December 6. We believe that it was a good idea to postpone the Commission meeting because important developments may come out of the Washington conference.

Green Thumb

continued from page one

The employment service will screen seniors who can pass a physical examination. The oldest with the least income will be hired at \$1.60 an hour four days a week. They can earn up to \$1,600 a year.

western union

Telegram

LYLE DOWNING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMISSION ON AGING—715 FEE ST.—HELENA, MONTANA

PLEASE EXTEND MY PERSONAL GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO ALL ATTENDING THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGING IN MISSOULA THIS WEEK. THE PROBLEMS OF THE AGING ARE NO LESS THAN ANY OTHER GROUP OR INTEREST IN OUR SOCIETY. THE ELDER CITIZEN IS DESERVING OF A FAR BETTER BREAK. WHILE THE LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE HERE IN THE SENATE MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE IN MONTANA THIS WEEK, I DO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM DOING WHAT I CAN TO PROMOTE VARIOUS PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE AGING. HOPEFULLY THE 91ST CONGRESS CAN BOAST OF MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN A PROGRAM WHICH WILL ASSIST ELDER CITIZENS. MRS. MANSFIELD JOINS ME IN EXTENDING TO ALL PERSONAL GOOD WISHES FOR A MOST SUCCESSFUL AND REWARDING CONFERENCE.

SINCERELY,

MIKE MANSFIELD
MAJORITY LEADER U.S. SENATE

Form W-4P Now Available at Internal Revenue

Washington, D.C.—Retired persons will be able to avoid having to make quarterly payments of estimated tax to the Internal Revenue Service by the use of the new Form W-4P.

Form W-4P — Annuitant's Request for Federal Income Tax Withholding — is now available at IRS field offices. They should be filled out immediately.

Since companies paying out the annuities do not have to begin withholding until three months after Form W-4P is filed, retirees who want withholding to begin next January

should file Form W-4P with the payer of annuities and pensions by October 1, 1970. Payers may begin withholding any time after they receive Form W-4P but not before January 1, 1971.

Form W-4P, Annuitant's Request for Federal Income Tax Withholding, should be filled out by the retiree and sent to the bank, insurance company or other payer from which he receives his annuity or pension payment.

The IRS said withholding must be in a whole-dollar amount and must be at least

\$5 a month. Withholding, however, cannot reduce below \$10 the amount of pension or annuity payment which the retired person receives.

The firm making the payment is required to withhold income tax if the retiree requests that it be done. However, withholding is optional on the part of the retiree.

The withholding provisions do not apply to annuities that are wholly exempt from Federal taxation, such as social security benefits and Veterans Administration pensions.



Lt. Governor Tom Judge praises the work of the Montana Commission on Aging.



Ray L. Schwartz, Associate Coordinator for the Regional & State Activity on Aging, explains the significance of the 1971 White House Conference.



Hundreds of Senior Citizens At

TO THE RIGHT

Missoula's Mayor, George F. Turman, welcomes the Conference Delegates.

—————→

FURTHER RIGHT

Helena's Nancy Harper belts out "Echoes from Broadway" during the banquet.

—————→



Executive Director Lyle Downing speaking to the Conference.



Seated in the right foreground is Secretary of State Frank Murray and his wife Geraldine at one of the Conference Sessions.

end the Governors Conference



Clinton Hess, right, Denver Associate Regional Associate Commissioner for Aging, drives home some economic realities. On the left is Ted Carkulis, State Welfare Administrator.



Merrill E. Groelle, Associate Director American Association of Retired Persons, Washington, D.C. sets priority for aging in the 70's.



Better Times

continued from page one

"That has changed. It must be admitted that the pace was slow as federal, state and local governments dealt with the problems of the aging. The turning point came 35 years ago when the Social Security Act was signed into law by our late President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The next important forward step was in 1965 when the Older Americans Act became law.

"Under this law", the governor continued, "the Montana Commission on Aging, a statutory agency, was set up by the Legislature. The commission is composed of 15 dedicated Montanans who have been working under severe handicaps, due to lack of funds, to finance projects. However, the commission has established 16 senior centers in the state and has funded numerous other training, employment and educational projects."

He's Encouraged

Anderson said he was encouraged by the splendid cooperation now existing between state agencies dealing with problems of the aging. Twenty-four agencies are banded together in the Montana Council on Human Resources.

"I hope," the governor concluded, "through the Commission on Aging this state will come up with a comprehensive presentation of needs of older people to be presented at the 1971 White House Conference on Aging. There are more than 20 million senior citizens in the national popu-

lation, and Montana should have a major part in planning for their future."

Another banquet speaker was Merrill E. Groelle, Washington, D.C., associate director of the American Association of Retired Persons. Groelle said statistics and experience indicate "the post-55-age period is a healthier one than ever before in the history of man.

"Each succeeding generation of aging is retiring with a higher educational background, more retirement income, greater mobility and greater expectations," he said.

Groelle added that half of the people over 65 are under 73 and do not look upon themselves as aged.

Teamwork Urged

James R. Burress, Denver, regional commissioner Social Rehabilitation Service, HEW, spoke at a luncheon September 18. He urged state agencies to combine forces with federal programs set up by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to give the elderly the assistance they require.

Ray L. Schwartz, Associate Coordinator for regional and state activity, White House Conference on Aging, speaking at the luncheon, stated: "What comes out of the White House Conference will be what the President recommends to Congress for bettering the lot of senior citizens," he said.

Lieut. Gov. Thomas L. Judge also addressed the Governor's luncheon. He stated: "The Montana Commission on Aging has done a good job of administering over \$400,000 in federal grants to finance social, employment and recreation programs for the state's senior citizens. The state's 16 senior citizen centers now operating offer rare opportunities for older people to create for themselves a rewarding life in retirement."

The conference opened on September 17th with a general session directed by Theodore Carkulis, Montana Department of Public Welfare Administrator. He was assisted by a panel of experts on problems of the aging, including Clinton Hess, Denver, Colorado, associate regional commissioner for aging; Jack Carver, director of Montana Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Dr. Morton L. Arkava, associate professor, Department of Sociology and Social Welfare of the University of Montana, and Mrs. Ruth E. Pike, Assistant to the regional director, U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Seattle, Washington.

The conference closed with a Town Hall meeting, at which more than 400 senior citizens were given an opportunity to question a discussion panel which was presided over by Dr. Gordon Browder, director of the Institute for Social Science Research, University of Montana, and Dr. I. W. Evans, chairman of the Department of Sociology and Social Welfare at the university.

Conference Quiz

Airs Problems Of Elderly Persons

One of the highlights of the Governor's Conference on Aging, September 17-18, in Missoula, was the Town Hall Meeting conducted by Dr. Idris Evans, University of Montana sociologist.

Dr. Evans, who supervised a statewide senior citizen survey for the Montana Commission on Aging, gave elderly participants in the conference an opportunity to question a panel of experts on various aspects of the aging problem. Many senior citizens and professional workers in the aging field responded.

Mrs. Roberta Lee, Missoula Nursing Home administrator, declared that the shut-ins in nursing homes are being neglected.

"I am discouraged about what I have heard at this meeting because you folks have completely forgotten one segment of the aging population," she said. "I am referring to the people who cannot come to such meetings as this one. You senior citizens who are able to get out could have one of the most rewarding experiences in your life by going to these people and doing something with them and not for them."

Mrs. Lee was a delegate to the first White House Conference on Aging ten years ago.

Frank Brutto, Hamilton,



John F. Haugan, former director of the Missoula Kathleen Walford Senior Citizen Center, has joined the staff of the Commission on Aging as a planner through contractual arrangement with the University of Montana.

whose wife is coordinator of the O'Hara House Senior Center in that community, countered with the statement that nursing home residents and other elderly shut-ins are taken regularly to the Hamilton Center and participate in the activities.

One question which was frequently raised by the conference participants was the lack of transportation for senior citizens.

Miss Joan Duncan, coordinator for senior citizen activities for the Rocky Mountain Development Council of Helena, said that under the Model Cities Program buses have been purchased to transport older persons.

Referendum 67 will be voted up or down by senior citizens

Dale Harris, administrative assistant to the Montana Constitution Revision Committee, called attention to the role Senior Citizens will play in the discussions this fall of constitutional revision and Referendum 67 to call a constitutional convention.

Experience has shown that over one-fourth of the people who vote in elections do not vote on ballot questions.

Over 84 per cent of all persons over 65 are registered and are twice as likely to go to the polls and vote as are the youngsters under 25 years of age, Harris said.

There are few precincts in Montana where the Senior Citizen does not constitute 10 per cent of the vote.—The average is closer to 20 per cent.

Time and experience has exposed the imperfections, inequalities and the need for new safeguards in Montana's 81 year old constitution.

Claude D. Williams, a commissioner on the Commission on Aging and also a member of the Constitutional Convention Committee, said that speakers and material on the Montana Constitution will be available county-by-county on a private, non-partisan basis.



The Mellotones with their new director, Earl Walton (right), entertained at the luncheon. Their barbershop harmonies and gloves which were embroidered to look like eyes were very appealing to the seniors at the conference.

MONTANA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Walter Zimmerman, Director
Recreation Department-City of Billings
Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center
13 North 29th Street
Billings, Montana 59101

James Todd, Director
Great Falls Senior Citizens Center
318 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center
424 Higgins Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801

Earle J. Tucker, Director
Helena Senior Centers
1421 Roberts Street—21 North Main Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Marie Bradley, Director
Butte Silver Bow Senior Activity Center
405 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59034

Frank Bolton, Director
Flathead Senior Citizens Center
Main and First Streets
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dan Lopp, Deputy Director
Mineral County Senior Citizens Centers
Alberton Montana
Superior Montana
St. Regis Montana
508 Toole
Missoula Montana 59801

Mrs. Sallie M. Brutto Coordinator
The Senior Center of Hamilton
O'Hara House
109 South Fourth Street
Hamilton Montana 59840

Almer L. Thorson, President
Park County Senior Citizens Center
206 South Main
Livingston Montana 59047

Hugh Simanton Director
Malta Senior Citizens Center
206 South Second Avenue East
Malta Montana 59538

Bozeman Senior Social Center Incorporated
37 East Main
Bozeman Montana 59715

Mrs. Eleanor Starina Director
Big Horn County Senior Citizens Association
518 Center Avenue
Hardin Montana 59034

Allen Darnall, President
Sidney Senior Citizens Center
101 3 South East
Sidney, Montana 59270

Clarence Hunt, President
Thirty-nine Plus Club—Gold Thimble
12 Main
Roundup, Montana 59072

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS



LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE



Dedicated to Montana's 70,000
older Americans

Montana Commission on Aging

715 Fee Street

Helena, Montana 59601

Forrest H. Anderson

Governor of Montana

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